



# NEWSLETTER

## January 2020

Doña Ana County Historical Society

### Honorees Named For Awards Celebration On Jan. 25

The DACHS Board of Directors has announced the 2020 awards to be presented at our annual ceremony/luncheon on Jan. 25. They are:

**Hall of Fame** - Jean Fulton for her tireless years working for Las Cruces, Mesilla and New Mexico.

**Las Cruces Ad Hoc Historic Preservation Committee** - Special recognition for the group's work in preparing the city's new Historic Preservation Ordinance.

**Property Worthy of Preservation** - The old Country Club clubhouse designed by Trost and Trost and built in 1929.

**Pasajero Del Camino Real Award** - David Thomas for his new book, *Killing Pat Garrett, The Wild West's Most Famous Lawman – Murder or Self-Defense?*

**Gemoets Prize for Southern New Mexico Historical Review 2020** - Jim Eckles for "Catch A Falling Star In Las Cruces - 1950."

Please join us at the NM Farm and Ranch Museum. Instead of a traditional sit down lunch, this year we celebrate with more of a party atmosphere. Also, you will be free to attend the museum's **Antique Treasures** event.

The cost is \$25 per person. We are subsidizing students so they only pay \$15.

The event will begin at 1 p.m. in the Ventanas Room where stations will be setup with hors d'oeuvres. From 1 to 2 p.m., you will be able to snack your way from station to station visiting with friends and acquaintances.

See the rest of the schedule in the registration form below. The deadline for making your reservation is Jan. 21.

**Doña Ana County Historical Society's Annual Awards  
Saturday, January 25, 2020, NM Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum  
From 1 to 3 p.m. in the Ventanas Room**

- 1 - 2 p.m. Dine on a large selection of hors d'oeuvres. You can snack your way from one station to the next. Tables and chairs available to sit and eat with friends.
- 2 - 3 p.m. Installation of 2020 Board of Directors.  
Presentation by Holly Radke on preservation of artifacts that you own.  
Presentation of annual recognition awards.
- 3 p.m. on Feel free to explore the museum and visit the Antique Treasures Event

If you have questions, please call Susan (575) 525-0654.

RESERVATION FORM DUE BY TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 per person / \$15 per student TOTAL enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Will pay at the door

# An Open Letter Of Thanks To The Historical Society

Dear Doña Ana Historical Society:

I want to extend my thanks to the Doña Ana Historical Society for posting online your past newsletters and historical reviews. The sharing freely of your knowledge of New Mexico and the Southwest has been most helpful to me and my family.

The article on “Cooks: A New Mexico Mining Community” in the Vol. II, No. 1 (January 1995) issue of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* has aided us in “filling out” the picture of the desolate, rough mining area that my family worked in during the 1930s until 1955. With the recent passing of my uncle, a lot of the knowledge of hand mining in the Southwest has been lost to my family. The article has been most useful to those of us who did not grow up in the area.

Donald H. Couchman’s article also confirmed the family rumor that neighbor Riley “Old Man Riley” George was tried for murder. Whenever George was mentioned someone in the family would give you the side-eye and whisper, “Did you know that he might have been a murderer?” It is interesting to note that the rumors for once were true, though he was acquitted.

## Las Cruces Seeks Volunteers For Historic Preservation Commission

By Troy M. Ainsworth, Ph.D.  
Historic Preservation Specialist  
City of Las Cruces

One month ago, the Las Cruces Mayor and City Council approved the amendment to the Municipal Code to adopt the historic preservation ordinance and establish the Historic Preservation Commission. In December, the City Clerk updated the section of the City’s webpage (<https://onboard.las-cruces.org/board/2648>) under Boards and Commissions to

add Historic Preservation as one of the boards. To date, the City Clerk has received one application of interest to serve on that board; Dr. John Bloom has indicated his interest for consideration. Similarly, I recall that several folks have expressed some interest, so the time is now to notify the City Clerk’s office of your interest. You may do so by visiting the City’s webpage at the aforementioned address. Also, please share this message with anyone you know who may have an interest to serve.

My grandparents and their children lived roughly on Cooks in one-room cabins (in reality a dilapidated shack) or an old circus tent. They moved often, following the traces of ore. They hand mined for lead, zinc, and silver during the Great Depression and World War II. They endured injury, inclement weather, dangerous animals (four legged and two legged), and financial ruin. Southwestern New Mexico shaped them into strong, resourceful, resilient people.

So, at the next meeting where a committee member asks “who is going to read the newsletter other than us?” please mention me and my family who are most pleased to come across your publication. Please accept my sincere thanks for Doña Ana Historical Society’s efforts at preserving the history of south western New Mexico. Your goal of educating the public continues to pay off – even if it is twenty years down the line.

Kindest regards,  
Leann Griffin

*Editor’s Note:* Past issues of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* are on our website.

## Historical Society Of New Mexico Celebrates 160th Anniversary

On December 26, 1859, a group of twenty-five influential men representing a wide variety of New Mexico’s interests gathered to approve the constitution and by-laws of the Historical Society of New Mexico. The mission of the new organization was to collect and preserve all “historical facts, manuscripts, documents, records and memoirs” relating to New Mexico as well as collect “Indian antiqui-

ties and curiosities, geological and mineralogical specimens, geographical maps and information, and objects of natural history.”

Next the members elected officers with Lt. Col. John Breckinridge Grayson, the Chief of Commissary of New Mexico, as president. On January 30, 1860, the new Society convened for their first regular meeting.

# Last Call To Renew Your DACHS Membership

☞ PLEASE NOTE that in 2020 we plan to quit emailing and mailing the newsletter to non-members. If you are a past member and just haven't renewed in the last year or two, please consider

renewing now so you can stay informed on what we are doing. If you don't, you'll quit receiving the newsletter soon. Make your check out to DACHS and mail it today. ☺

Doña Ana County Historical Society, P. O. Box 16045, Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045

## DACHS Membership Form

Please renew/enroll my/our membership in the Doña Ana County Historical Society. Memberships are active for the calendar year of enrollment and fees are deductible within legal limits for Federal and State income tax purposes. If you are unsure of your status or have questions regarding membership, please contact Susan Krueger, at 575 525-0654.

### Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

Individual \$25       Family \$30       Student \$10       Contributor \$40   
Benefactor \$150       Life \$300

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*Southern New Mexico Historical Review Sponsorship + \$50*

Is this a change of information? Yes  No       A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

You will automatically receive the Monthly Newsletter in your email as a PDF. Would you also like a paper, printed copy mailed later to the above postal address? Yes  No

Your membership includes a copy of the annual *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*(SNMHR). Are you willing to download the version on the DACHS website  or would you like to receive a printed copy?

Printed copies are usually first available at the annual Awards Luncheon.

# Membership Notes .....

➤ Garland Courts, the new DACHS vice president, has the spring lecture series just about set. As usual it will be diverse and interesting.

☞ **Feb. 20** - "Heroes and Villains of New Mexico" presented by Bud Russo. He will tell stories from his book of the same name that talks about New Mexico history bridging cultures with Native Americans, Spanish Colonials, Mexicans, and Anglos.

☞ **Mar. 19** - Garland is awaiting final confirmation for a group presentation.

☞ **Apr. 16** - David Thomas will talk about his latest book *Killing Pat Garrett, The Wild West's Most Famous Lawman - Murder or Self Defense?* David looks at the evidence and offers his opinion. Be prepared to see photos you've never seen.

☞ **May 21** - July 16 will mark the 75th anniversary of the Trinity Site atomic bomb test. Jim Eckles will provide a different look at Trinity Site with "Trinity at 75: Myths, Misinformation and Things You Probably Don't Know."

As in the past, these lectures will take place in the Good Samaritan auditorium at 7 p.m.

➤ The next lecture in the Human Systems Research series about Canada Alamoso is about the late pueblo period there. This is be part of Karl Laumbach's efforts to summarize what has been learned from the years of research at the site.

The presentation is Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Good Samaritan auditorium.

➤ Also, Human Systems Research has announced that their ninth annual Buffalo Roast will be March 14 at the NM Farm and Ranch Museum. The keynote speaker will be Mark Santiago, Director of the NM Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. His topic will be "Labyrinth of Blood: Apaches and the Spanish Empire." This talk will examine the origins, course, and results of this long, bloody, and labyrinthine struggle.

**2020 Board of Directors**  
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 Daniel Aguilera, Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum Liaison  
 Clara Roberts, MSU History student liaison  
[www.donaanacountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.donaanacountyhistoricalsociety.org)

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 Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045

